To combat tax evasion by way of legislative measures, provisions of Chapter XXC of the Income Tax Act empower Government to make pre-emptive purchase of immovable properties in 28 cities where the apparent consideration involved in the transaction exceeds Rs. 10 lakh. Till December, 1992, 872 orders have been passed wherein the apparent consideration was Rs. 345.60 crore. Also till December, 1992, 469 properties have been sold for a price of Rs. 251.60 crore as against the apparent consideration of Rs. 185.20 crore.

Smuggling across Nepal Border

3975. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the coming into operation of Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty, the bilateral trade has been significantly stengthened and smuggling across the border has been fully prevented; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The value of goods legally imported from Nepal and legally exported to Nepal during the last 4 financial years are given below:—

(Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Export	Import	Tota
1989-90	83.32	0.56	83.88
1990-91	86.62	81.49	168.11
1991-92	196.55	70.11	266.66
1992-93 (April—November)	136.88	45.12	182.00

From these figures it appears that the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Transit and the Agreement for Co-operation to Control Unauthorised Trade, 1991 assist the growth of bilateral trade between the two countries.

The Indo-Nepal border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. The value of contraband seized in the Indo-Nepal sector of the land border under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last 3 calender years are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Value of goods
1990	24.73
1991	34.88
1992*	34.56

(*Figures are provisional)

Exemptions under the Income Tax Act

3976. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some Voluntary Retirement Scheme of different Central Public Sector Undertakings for examination and for its views on the grant of exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961 during the last three years till date; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The approval of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in a Public sector company by the

Central Government, for the purpose of tax exemption on the payment received by an employee on his retirement under such Scheme, is required only if the voluntary Retirement Scheme was implemented prior to 1.4.1992. In the case of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme implemented after 1.4.1992, the approval of Central Government is not required, if such scheme is framed in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. The details of applications received from Central Public Sector Companies during last three years are as under:

	Year 1990	Year 1991	Year 1992
Received	21	15	3
Approved so far	15	7	1
Rejected so for	5	4	1
Pending	1	4	1

Punjab Government's request for waiving 'C' forms

3977. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has approached the Central Government for waiving 'C' forms in case of transactions between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was suggested that the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, be amended to insert a proviso in Section 8(4)(a), so that the Assessing Authority, if satisfied in case of inter-State Sales to Jammu & Kashmir that the 'C' forms cannot be produced, may accept secondary evidence to his satisfaction, subject to submission of appropriate indemnity bond by the selling dealer, to safeguard the Government revenue.

Purchase of flat's by State Bank of Indore

3978. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flats purchased from builders by the State Bank of Indore in Sahibabad, in Uttar Pradesh and in Calcutta during the last year;

(b) what are the details of their locations;

(c) what is the cost of each flat;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Bank authorities have paid the amount for these flats before their registration;

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(f) what action has been taken against the officers/sanctioning authorities for making the payment; and

(g) whether it is also a fact that these flats are lying vacant after allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improving the services of Banks

3979. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign banks operating in the country and far ahead of the Indian banks in the matter of deposits, credit growth etc;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken seps to bring Indian banks at par with foreign banks operating in the country; and